

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4659

ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007

PERFORMANCE OF INDIAN HOCKEY TEAM

Deora Shri Milind Murl;Jai Prakash Shri ;Shivanna Shri M

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several former Hockey players organized a demonstration in Delhi against the negative attitude of Indian Hockey Federation as a result of which the standard of Hockey in the country is constantly declining;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government had spent huge amounts on the training of the players and on the participation of men's Indian Hockey team in the last World Cup and the Asian Games;
- (d) if so, the total expenditure incurred thereon;
- (e) whether the Government has sought any explanation from the IHF for poor performance of the Indian Hockey Team in the International tournaments;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) the details of the guidelines prescribed for the Sports Federations to be eligible to receive grants/monetary assistance from the Government and the basis on which the funds are disbursed to them;
- (h) whether there is any proposal to constitute a Steering Committee for future guidance;
- (i) if so, the time by which such Committee is likely to be constituted; and
- (j) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the performance of the Indian Hockey Team?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHYATI RAJ, YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. Some former Olympians took out a procession in Delhi on the dismal performance of the Indian Hockey Team in the Doha Asian Games and submitted a Memorandum to the Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports and the President Indian Olympic Association requesting an inquiry into the financial dealings of the Indian Hockey Federation; dissolution of the present IHF set-up and the formation of an Ad-hoc Committee of Experts to take immediate measures to enable the team to qualify for the 2008 Olympics.

(c) & (d) : Government spent a amount of Rs. 35,11,935 on National coaching camps for men's hockey team in 2006. Apart from this, an advance of Rs. 23,80,950 was given to the Indian Hockey Federation for meeting the board & lodging expenses of the Indian Hockey team for participation in the World Cup, 2006 and Rs. 26,61,436 towards passage costs of the team. For participation in the Doha Asian Games, a total amount of Rs. 18,63,015 was incurred on passage cost; board & lodging, and kit of the Indian hockey team. In addition to this, an amount of Rs.41,66,181 was spent for holding the National championships and participation of the Indian Hockey Team in international events held in India and abroad.

(e) & (f) : Government are concerned over India's performance in hockey, which has been much below expectations in recent years and has sought the intervention of the Indian Olympic Association in this regard. The Indian Hockey Federation which is primarily responsible for the development of the sport in the country and the performance of Indian Teams in international events, has stated that they are making sustained efforts to restore the country to its rightful place in the world of hockey, and despite excellent preparations for the last World Cup and Asian Games, with the cooperation of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), in terms of well-structured coaching camps, scientific support, involvement of trained professionals and adequate match exposure, and through assistance from this Ministry, the performance of the teams was not upto expectations because of unfortunate accidents, injuries involving some key players, and unexpected poor showing in some matches.

(g) Under the Guidelines for assistance to national Sports Federations, the sporting organizations must meet the following criteria:

(i) The National Sports Federations will become eligible for assistance immediately after recognition by the Ministry;

- (ii) They will follow proper democratic and healthy management practices which provide for greater accountability and transparency at all levels;
- (iii) They will have proper accounting procedures at all levels and produce annual financial statements;
- (iv) They will produce an annual report within 6 months of completion of the year;
- (v) They will have impartial and transparent selection procedures;
- (vi) They will provide a positive exposure to the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports as a major sponsor of sport in India; and
- (vii) They will ensure that dope tests of all players are conducted regularly as per norms/standards laid down by the International Federation of the discipline concerned.

Government have categorized the recognized NSFs in three categories, based on their performance in the Olympics/Asian/Commonwealth/SAF Games and World Championships. Under 'Priority' and 'General' category, financial assistance is given for participation in international competitions and training abroad; purchase of equipment; coaching camps organized by SAI; and holding national/international tournaments in India; while for the 'Others' category, financial assistance is given only for holding the annual National Championships. Men's Hockey has been demoted from the 'Priority' category to the 'General' category owing to the continuous poor performance of the Indian Hockey Team in all major tournaments in the recent past.

(h) to (j) : The Indian Hockey Federation have informed the Ministry that they propose to nominate a small team of experts, led by a fully dedicated Coaching Director, to meticulously plan the Coaching Camps and arrange suitable facilities and scientific support in collaboration with the SAI and the Sports Ministry, with the immediate aim being to build the team and qualify for the Olympics. The Federation has also launched the Youth Development Programme for the next four years for which discussions have been held with former captains of winning teams of Olympics, World Cup and Asian Games, including S/Shri Balbir Singh, Ajit Pal Singh, V. Bhaskaran and Dhanraj Pillai.